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DEPARTMENT FOR ISN/CB A.SOUZA AND EAP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/27/2018
TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [ETTC](#) [AS](#)
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA GROUP: PLENARY INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND
POTENTIAL PROBLEM WITH PARIS PLENARY

REF: STATE 16112

Classified By: Political Counselor James F. Cole for reasons 1.4(b),(d)

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¶1. (SBU) Polmiloff provided the general and Australia-specific points in reftel to Michael Kourteff, Acting Director for Counter-Proliferation, and Alexandra Jones, Executive Officer, Counter-Proliferation Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, on February 27. (The delay in delivery of the demarche resulted partly from the unavailability of key DFAT interlocutors as well as the demands of the U.S.-Australia Ministerial (AUSMIN) consultations.)

¶2. (C) Kourteff and Jones promised a response by February 29, readily agreeing to our request that our efforts to promote bilateral exchanges detailed elsewhere in reftel not be circulated as part of an official AG document.

¶3. (C) Jones flagged a possible problem with the April 14-18 AG Plenary. The Australian Mission in Paris had telephoned that morning to report that French President Sarkozy had just "commandeered" the AG venue during the mid-April period. While Australia hopes that the French government will identify a new venue, Jones said, if it does not, the GOA may need to reach out to other diplomatic missions in Paris, including the U.S. Embassy, for help with finding a substitute venue for the expected 200 attendees.

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